



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS ***Dead Crow Found with Virus in Carlsbad***

County Vector Control officials announced today a dead bird has tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the first bird to test positive for the virus this year in San Diego County.

The County received confirmation of the positive test from the state Department of Health Services, Vector Borne Disease Section. The dead crow was found in Carlsbad on June 10, 2005.

"West Nile virus is not a treatable disease, but it is preventable. The best defense against it is to avoid mosquito bites. Stay vigilant about eliminating standing water from around your home. Keep door and window screens in good repair, avoid going outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, and be sure to use mosquito repellents," said Gary Erbeck, director of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

Insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, a plant-based repellent that provides protection similar to a low concentration of DEET, are the only repellents that have been reviewed for effectiveness, and approved for use by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Look on the label for a U.S. EPA registration number and avoid repellents that have not been tested or registered for effectiveness.

The County's West Nile virus Web site, www.SDFightTheBite.com, has a mosquito prevention checklist that includes the most common back yard mosquito-breeding sources from birdbaths to wheelbarrows. Residents should check their property weekly to ensure that water is not collecting in their yards.

Larger water sources such as horse troughs, decorative fountains, ponds and inoperable swimming pools can be stocked with mosquito eating fish to control the larvae before they hatch into biting adults that can carry disease. These fish are available free of charge at 14 locations around the county. Check the County's West Nile virus Web site for distribution locations.

For more information on West Nile virus, or to report mosquito breeding sites or dead birds, please call the County of San Diego Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636). ###

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